

**Remarks**

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on October 7, 2005. Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration of the instant application in view of the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1-10 are rejected.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to more distinctly claim the invention.

Support for these amendments is found in original claims 3 and 8. Claims 3 and 8 have been canceled, as they have been incorporated in claims 1 and 6, respectively. No new matter has been added.

**Rejection**

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bardman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,710,161). Applicants submit that Bardman et al. neither teach nor disclose the claimed invention because Bardman et al. do not teach covalently bonding polymer particles to an inorganic particle.

Bardman et al. teach composite particles with polymer particles “adsorbed to the surface of each pigment particle.” See, Bardman et al., col. 13, lines 16-18. However, Bardman et al. do not disclose composite particles having polymer particles covalently bonded (both adsorbed and reacted) to an inorganic particle, as claimed in the Application. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

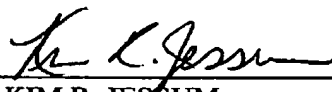
**Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is earnestly solicited. Alternatively, Applicants request that the above amendments be entered for purposes of appeal.

Applicants believe that this paper is being timely filed and no fees are due. However, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any additional fees deemed required for entry of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 18-1850.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

  
KIM R. JESSUM  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 43,694  
Direct Dial: 215-592-3689

ROHM AND HAAS COMPANY  
100 Independence Mall West  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2399